

Aquatic Farming Site Identification**FY2003 Request: \$144,600**
Reference No: 35749**AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Planning**Category:** Development**Location:** Statewide**Contact:** Bob Loeffler**Election District:** Statewide**Contact Phone:** (907)269-8625**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2002 - 06/30/2004**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

The project was requested by the Southeast Conference to complement their proposal to the Alaska Science and Technology Foundation (and other sources) to identify potential areas for aquatic farming activities on Prince of Wales Island. This proposal would demonstrate a new and potentially better method of identifying and permitting aquatic farming sites. The proposal could not fully demonstrate the process without the involvement of the landowner who must authorize use of the site: DNR. Thus, DNR's involvement in this project is paramount in order to make the necessary land management decisions and implement the project in accordance with Alaska Statute, Title 38.

Funding:

	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	Total
I/A Rcpts	\$144,600						\$144,600
Total:	\$144,600	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$144,600

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased Project	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going Project
0% = Minimum State Match % Required	<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Total Operating Impact:	0	0
One-Time Startup Costs:	0	
Additional Estimated Annual O&M:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

This is a new project request, that would provide an opportunity for both the industry and involved agencies to cooperate in an effort to enhance the aquatic farm program.

Detailed Project Justification:

Areas would be identified through individual site assessments; organizing and conducting public/agency review, including public notices and public/agency meetings; researching and identifying land use management issues, conflicts, and conflict resolution. Once areas have been identified, the Prince of Wales Island Area Plan would be amended to include the findings. In addition, new procedures and/or changes in current aquatic farm policies, procedures, and regulations may be necessary.

The department agrees with the project's goal of pre-determining potential aquatic farm sites for prospective applicants and believes that accomplishing this would benefit the state's current aquatic farm program. Such a process would provide a great amount more surety for the industry and eliminate many of the time-consuming conflicts that now consume the agencies and the public. Site selection for aquatic farming operations is the most critical component of the entire application process.

The project would provide new economic opportunities in an area that has suffered from the loss of traditional industries such as timber harvest and salmon fisheries. Because of the uncertainty of the size or number of areas that may be identified, an estimated number of new farmsites/jobs cannot be predicted. Typically, aquatic farmsites employ 1-3 personnel. Secondary jobs would be created or increased because of new aquatic farms from businesses involved in marketing and transport of product.

As stated above, it is uncertain of the size and number of areas to be identified. Therefore, it is impossible to determine an amount of new aquatic farm sites this project may create. An average farm containing 3 acres provide \$550.00 annually to the department, plus additional fees from concurrent required authorizations issued by the Department of Fish and Game and the Department of Environmental Conservation going towards their respective budgets.

Specific Spending Detail:**Personal Services- \$120.6**

Fund a nonpermanent project employee to conduct the public hearings and site assessments, identify land management issues, amend the Prince of Wales Island Area Plan, and implement new aquatic farm policies and regulations as necessary.

Travel- \$20.0

Conduct meetings/hearings in Southcentral and Southeast Alaska and conduct preliminary field assessments for approximately 2½ months.

Supplies & Equipment - \$4.0

General supplies and equipment to support the project.

Project Support:

The project was requested by the Southeast Conference, which is made up of local municipalities, chambers of commerce, and private businesses and individuals throughout southeast Alaska. In addition, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game supports the project and has committed staff time - mariculture coordinator during phase one and possibly additional staff during the last two phases involving planning and conducting formal site surveys. In addition, ADF&G has stated that they would provide funds for resource assessments.

Project Opposition:

DNR, Division of Mining, Land and Water is unaware of any opposition for this project.

Project History:

It is discouraging for those aquatic farm applicants that go through an 8-month application process to be denied at the end because of conflicts with an existing use or other land management issue that was revealed through the review process. Pre-determining areas for aquatic farming would benefit the program by providing potential applicants with areas where potential and/or existing land use/management conflicts that have already identified and addressed potential and/or existing land use conflicts making it easier to apply. No prior appropriations for this specific type of project have been requested or received in the past for this program.